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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT  
 TOPIC Military Information from Letzling Heath

632723

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 13 April 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. A copy book presumably belonging to an officer or sergeant of a tank company was found at Haldensleben railroad station on 15 March. The copy book contains consecutive numbers from 1 thru 10, assigned to three platoons which indicate the strength of a tank company with 10 tanks. 25X1

Other notes presumably indicate the organization of a US infantry division.

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2. Between 14 February and 6 March, only one Soviet unit was seen en route to Letzling Heath troop training grounds. The unit, which was observed about 1 km north of the engineer training site at about 1 p.m. on 21 February, included 8 JS-2 tanks and 35 trucks. Shortly after, another column of 9 trucks, 4 four-wheel armored scout cars and 2 armored personnel carriers and truck was seen at Dolle. 2 25X1 25X1 25X1
3. On 3 March, trucks passed through Luederitz. Truck was identified in Jasvenitz on 4 March and truck was identified in Haldensleben. 3 25X1 25X1
4. Between 9 and 10 a.m. on 5 March, artillery firing was heard. Volley fire of 3 rounds, 4 rounds and 2 individual rounds was heard. Rocket launchers fired in the afternoon of the same day. Demolition practices were made at the engineer training site 3 km east-northeast of Salchau on several days. 25X1

5. Between 1 and 9 March, the socalled Ost Kaserne (5182) between the town of Hillersleben and Hillersleben Settlement was occupied by about 1,500 troops. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, blue-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia, black-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia or black-bordered red epaulets without branch-of-service insignia. One Colonel Nikolayev (fmu) was commanding officer, one Lieutenant Colonel Potapov (fmu) senior supply officer and officer in charge of the target range, one Major Barvolenkov (fmu) Potapov's deputy, and Senior Lieutenant Gerasimov (fmu) officer of an AAA unit and secretary of the komsomol. 25X1

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included about 40 tanks of type T-34/85, JS-2 and JS-3, 85-mm and 37-mm AA guns, 57-mm AT guns. 82-mm mortars and fourwheel armored scout cars. [redacted]

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6. The barracks installation adjoining the aforementioned installation to the west (5181) quartered 2,500 to 3,000 troops. Service colors and heavy weapons were the same as those observed above. However, about 60 tanks were identified.
7. The summer camps near Planken and Born were vacant, except for guard personnel.
8. Numerous T-34/85 and JS-2 and JS-3 tanks were seen on the tank training site about 12 km northeast of Hillersleben and in the adjacent clearings.
9. At about 11:20 a.m. on 1 March, 8 JS-2 and JS-3 tanks were loaded over the ramp just west of Hillersleben Settlement and subsequently dispatched toward Neuwaldensleben.

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[redacted] At about 5 p.m. on 3 March, another 10 tanks of type T-34/85 and JS-2 were dispatched toward the same direction.

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10. Between 2 and 3 p.m. on 9 March, all units from the abovementioned installations in Hillersleben left for a field exercise toward Born via Neuwaldensleben, taking along all heavy weapons. The rear was brought up by two trucks mounting troops and 4 mortars each. At about 5 p.m., truck [redacted] occupied by 15 officers, left the second barracks installation [redacted]. It was followed by truck [redacted] occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Truck [redacted] occupied by officers and dependents who wore uniforms or civilian clothes, entered the installation. 5

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1. [redacted]
2. Comment. Tank details of the 7th Gds Tank Div arrived in the southern sector of Letzling Heath and left again between 1 and 6 March. See paragraph 9 of the report and [redacted] The presence of these units at Letzling Heath is confirmed

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3. Comment. Presumably, vehicles of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div which were observed in Luederitz and Jaevenitz.

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4. Comment. [redacted] confirms the 153d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 19th Gds Mech Div in Hillersleben up to 9 March 1954. So far, Lieutenant Colonel Potapov (fmu) had been held as commanding officer. Senior Lieutenant Gerasimov (fmu) is also known from previous reports. Contradictory information has hitherto been obtained regarding the quartering of the regiment. It is believed, however, that the regiment is stationed in the barracks installation east of Hillersleben. [redacted] The weapons identified [redacted] except for the 85-mm AA guns, check with the equipment of a Heavy Tank SP regiment, as it is carried by this office. The AAA probably belongs to the 2503th Gds AAA Regt [redacted] of the 19th Gds Mech Div which is also assumed stationed in Hillersleben.

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5. Comment. [redacted] the departure toward a northerly direction of heavy elements of the 19th Gds Mech Div stationed in Hillersleben. Units of the division from Magdeburg also marched toward a northwesterly direction via the Elbe River. They participated in exercises of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps in the northern sector of Letzling Heath and in the Stendal area. They returned on 12 and 13 March.

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